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**Naabik'íyátí Committee approves supplemental funding  
from the UUFB for the Navajo Nation Employee Housing Program**

*Legislation moves on to the Council for final consideration*

**WINDOW ROCK** – On Thursday, the Naabik'íyátí Committee approved Legislation No. 0137-13 for supplemental funding in the amount of \$420,000 for the Navajo Nation Employee Housing Program from the Undesignated, Unreserved Fund Balance.

The funding will be used for various purposes including renovation, asbestos clean-up, mold remediation, renovation equipment, and the disposal of supplies and renovation debris, for several employee housing units.

“We are looking for direction from this committee to finally initiate these critical issues regarding the state of our employee housing,” said legislation sponsor Council Delegate Jonathan Hale (Oak Springs, St. Michaels).

The Navajo Nation Employee Housing Committee is tasked with assigning housing units at the request of Navajo Nation employees including political appointees, judges, employees occupying professional positions, and regular-status employees.

The legislation was met with concerns and questions from several Naabik'íyátí Committee members.

“I cannot fathom the explanation as to why we have these types of problems when we have so much money” said Council Delegate Lorenzo Curley (Houck, Klagetoh, Nahata Dziil, Tse Si'ani, Wide Ruins).

According to Delegate Hale, employee housing concerns have previously been brought to the attention of the Employee Housing Committee. However, funding has yet to be secured for such issues.

“The housing committee is comprised of members from the executive, legislative, and judicial branch, but it is difficult to get anything accomplished when we constantly do not make quorum to address these issues,” Delegate Hale stated.

“This issue is becoming very political regarding housing needs and committee members need to focus on renovating these houses and get the process going immediately,” added Delegate Hale.

In concurrence, Delegate Curley stated, “We need to get away from our own personal interests and address the needs of the Navajo Nation [employees].”

In reference to funding shortfalls, Council Delegate Russell Begaye (Shiprock), brought attention to and questioned the purpose of rental fees paid by employee housing tenants.

“When rent is collected from the tenants, where do those funds go?” asked Delegate Begaye.

In regard to the concerns raised by fellow committee colleagues, Council Delegate LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland) requested that a report be provided to the Navajo Nation Council regarding employee housing revenues and expenditures.

Delegate Hale said that a report will be provided when the legislation is introduced to the Council.

Naabik’iyátí Committee members voted 9-0 to approve Legislation No. 0137-13.

The legislation is currently on the proposed agenda for the Navajo Nation Council Summer Session, scheduled to begin on July 15.

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